

Extracts.

THE SWALLOW. *By Mrs. W. W. W.*
With wings and feet as the Spring,
Queen Spring, as the first bird lands;
Over land, over sea, our restless wing,
Tosses not, where her footfall stands.
The swallows fly on their shining wings,
To lighten our mortal life's way;
And when for a moment they rest their feet,
Over her head we hover and play.
Men cannot see our beautiful Queen,
But they think Spring follows wherever we fly;
And they cry to us, "The swallows are here!"
And—then, that the Winter may come not night!
But the beautiful Spring is flying, and we
Must fly with her—by the way her land,
And follow her—by the way her land,
For her gentle, in a vast, invisible band.
For the Autumn with fiery hand
Is touching our haunts in the tall grass trees;
And richly now her long golden hair
Shall bid our bright homes face in the breeze.
And soon the smiles of Winter shall march,
The lighted fronts, the lead behind.
Where the first bird's footfall stands,
Where her head we hover and play.
Do not meet your beautiful Spring shall die,
Stretch out and die by the Winter, if we
Do not stand her flying, and with her fly,
Where her gentle, in a vast, invisible band.
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THE END OF THE FLEET DITCH.
In 1839 (George I.) the Fleet, being so
often tried and found guilty, underwent at
the House of Commons for permission
to cover it up out of sight, as all navigation
had ceased, it had become impossible to
cleanse it, and several persons had fallen in,
and it was considered that the Fleet Ditch
was a nuisance to the city, and a bill was
introduced for its removal. The bill was
passed, and the Fleet Ditch was filled up
with earth, and the Fleet was made a
reservoir for the water of the city. The
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SPECTRE CATTLE.
We once came across a pious lady, who was
greatly distressed at a table of little
in the north of Italy, where she discovered
she had eaten calves' feet, and was
much comforted by the fact, but
beside her saying, "See how I don't
find yourself there's not meat enough on
all the calves from this to Rome to give you
a chance of breaking the fast."—A Word
for the Convent School, in Fraser's
Magazine.

CHINESE LOVE OF GAMBLING.
I followed the others to the gambling
house; it was a dirty-looking shop in a narrow
street, crowded with Chinamen; here we
lost a few dollars at a game we did not
understand—"a game the Chinese love with
such a strange infatuation." Great gambles
they all seemed to me; you will often see
little children hazardous any cash they
have to purchase their dinner at a street
stall, and taking a chance of getting a meal
worth double the coin they have in hand, or
going without food altogether. Give a beggar
alms, and instead of buying a strange-looking
sausage-roll, take a hawkie carrying about
himself in his voluminous robes, and
wait contentedly for another benevolent
donor, or for the kindest friend of all his
wretched tribe, the great rest-giver, Death.
Non-a-Dog.

A HORRIBLE CUSTOM.
Seeing that a crowd had gathered in the
lower portion of the Apache village, I
went down to see what was the matter.
I found a number of the Apache men
engaged in a game of chance, which they
had named "Inquiry." I asked the fact that
they were about procuring the meat for their
feet, and the animal and securely tying
his feet, two of these devils were seen
advanced and commenced with knives to cut
the meat from the thighs and forepaws of the
animal in large chunks, while the other
creature uttered the most terrible
howls. After cutting the meat clean to the bone,
they proceeded to pierce the lungs, veins,
and ending his misery, the square cut the
blood in huge gobs. I afterwards
learned that this process was resorted to
from the fact that the meat taken from a
live animal was considered "unclean." The
blood was fed to the children to make
them brave, and was also considered an
essential dainty for seasoning their stews.
"The Marvellous Country," by G. W. Cozens.

ROSEMARY.
The origin of strewing the graves of
corpses with rosemary, and carrying into the
funerals for this purpose, is somewhat
uncertain. It cannot have been the name as
that which induced the ancient Romans to
make use of cypress, which, being at once
cut and never again "growing," was the
emblem of their "day for ever," but rather
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shall see, is the meaning of other plants
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funerals was probably thought a powerful
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Shortly after midnight Tarleton and his
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leader commanded its inmates, in a loud
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The only answer was the crack of a rifle fired
through the chinks, which sorely wounded
Tarleton's horse, and narrowly missed its
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Tarleton slipped quickly with his sixth man
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their leader's assistance; and Keitt, with
Tarleton for his gallantry, was a prisoner.
—*Blackwood's Magazine*.

THE SALT OF THE SEA.
The saltness of the sea is one of those
wonderful facts which we are apt to take for
granted, without inquiring as to the cause of
it, which it is which is the effect. That the
sea is salt everybody knows; but why salt?
Why are not rivers salt also? The degree
to which saltness pervades sea-water varies.
Some parts of the ocean are saturated with
saline matter, others are almost brackish.
The water of the Caribbean sea is done
compared with that of the Baltic in the
proportion of 0.12 to 0.14. The kind
of salt, however, to be found in
sea-water is universally the same
whatever the density of the water may be.
Local causes may affect water to a certain
extent, but experience shows that the salts ex-
tracted from sea-water, in whatever part of
the world, are substantially the same in kind,
the only difference being in the quantity.
The salts contained are—Chloride of sodium
(common salt), chloride of potassium, chlor-
ide of calcium, chloride of magnesium, chlor-
ide of strontium, sulphate of lime, carbo-
nate of lime (common chalk), sulphate of
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World of Wonders*.

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—*Blackwood's Magazine*.

Insurance.

ROYAL INSURANCE COMPANY.
THE Undersigned having been appointed
Agents for the above Company, are pre-
pared to GRANT INSURANCES at Current
Rates.
MELCHERS & Co.
Agents, Royal Insurance Company.
1730 Hongkong, 28th October, 1874.

THE SECOND COLONIAL SEA AND
FIRE INSURANCE COMPANY OF
HONGKONG.
THE Undersigned, having been appointed
Agents in Hongkong for the above Com-
pany, call SPECIAL ATTENTION OF
SHIPPEES to the low rates of premium
charged for all transits of goods, whether by
a Brokerage of THIRTY-THREE and ONE-
THIRD PER CENT. (33 1/3%) will be allowed
on risks to ports in China, Japan, the Philip-
pines, and the Straits. On risk to all other
ports the Brokerage will be SIXTEEN PER
CENT. (16%) only.
SIMPSON & Co.
Agents.
1103 Hongkong, 1st July, 1874.

THE SWISS LLOYD'S TRANSPORT
INSURANCE COMPANY.
WINTERHUT.
Swiss Lloyd's Capital, \$1,000,000.
On-shares with Reserve Fund, \$1,000,000.
French Capital, \$1,000,000.
\$3,000,000.
THE Undersigned, having been appointed
Agents for the above Company, are pre-
pared to grant Policies on Marine Risks, and
on Goods stored on land, at the following
rates:—On Marine Risks, a Brokerage of
THIRTY-THREE and ONE-THIRD PER CENT.
(33 1/3%) on all other Risks, a Brokerage of
SIXTEEN PER CENT. (16%) only.
SIMPSON & Co.
Agents.
1103 Hongkong, 1st July, 1874.

IMPERIAL FIRE INSURANCE COM-
PANY.
THE Undersigned, Agents for the above
Company, are prepared to grant Policies
against Fire to the extent of \$500,000, on
any class of property.
First-class risk.
A RETURN OF TWENTY PER CENT. (20%)
will be made on the premium charged on all
insurances, such RETURN being payable on the
issue of the Policy.
GIBB, LIVINGSTON & Co.
Agents.
Imperial Fire Insurance Company.
383 Hongkong, 1st March, 1874.

YAMATSEI INSURANCE ASSOCIATION
OF SHANGHAI.
THE Undersigned, Agents for the above
Association, are prepared to grant Policies
on Marine Risks, and on Goods stored on
land, at the following rates:—On Marine
Risks, a Brokerage of THIRTY-THREE and
ONE-THIRD PER CENT. (33 1/3%) on all other
Risks, a Brokerage of SIXTEEN PER CENT.
(16%) only.
SIMPSON & Co.
Agents.
1103 Hongkong, 1st July, 1874.

THE CHINA FIRE INSURANCE COM-
PANY, LIMITED.
THE Transfer Books of this Company will
be CLOSED from the 15th to the 15th
inst., both days inclusive.
OLYMPHANT & Co.
General Agents.
12036 Hongkong, 7th December, 1874.

THE VICTORIA FIRE INSURANCE
COMPANY OF HONGKONG.
LIMITED.
NOTICE.
THE Transfer Books of this Company will
be CLOSED from the 15th to the 15th
inst., both days inclusive.
AUGUSTINE HEARD & Co.
General Agents.
283 3018 Hongkong, 28th December, 1874.

THE CHINA FIRE INSURANCE COM-
PANY, LIMITED.
NOTICE.
THE Transfer Books of this Company will
be CLOSED from the 15th to the 15th
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AUGUSTINE HEARD & Co.
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Insurance.

THE QUEEN INSURANCE COMPANY.
CAPITAL—Two Million Sterling.
THE Undersigned having been appointed
Agents for the above Company at Hong-
kong, Canton, Foochow, Shanghai, and
Hankow, and are prepared to grant Insurances at
Current Rates.
HOLLIDAY, WISE & Co.
1555 Hongkong, 15th October, 1868.

THE LONDON ASSURANCE
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OF
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A.D. 1720.
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MARINE DEPARTMENT.
Policies at current rates, payable either here,
in London, or at the principal Ports of India,
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FIRE DEPARTMENT.
Policies issued for long or short periods at
current rates.
A discount of 20% allowed.
LIFE DEPARTMENT.
Policies issued on lives not exceeding £5,000,
on reasonable terms.
HOLLIDAY, WISE & Co.
1555 Hongkong, 26th July, 1872.

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MARINE DEPARTMENT.
Policies at current rates, payable either here,
in London, or at the principal Ports of India,
China, and Australia.
FIRE DEPARTMENT.
Policies issued for long or short periods at
current rates.
A discount of 20% allowed.
LIFE DEPARTMENT.
Policies issued on lives not exceeding £5,000,
on reasonable terms.
HOLLIDAY, WISE & Co.
1555 Hongkong, 26th July, 1872.

THE LONDON ASSURANCE
INCORPORATED BY ROYAL CHARTER
OF
HIS MAJESTY KING GEORGE THE FIRST.
A.D. 1720.
THE Undersigned having been appointed
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1555 Hongkong, 26th July, 1872.

HONGKONG MARKETS.

As reported by CHINESE ON THE 7th December, 1874.
COTTON GOODS.
COTTON YARN, No. 16, 18, 20, 22, 24, 26, 28, 30, 32, 34, 36, 38, 40, 42, 44, 46, 48, 50, 52, 54, 56, 58, 60, 62, 64, 66, 68, 70, 72, 74, 76, 78, 80, 82, 84, 86, 88, 90, 92, 94, 96, 98, 100, 102, 104, 106, 108, 110, 112, 114, 116, 118, 120, 122, 124, 126, 128, 130, 132, 134, 136, 138, 140, 142, 144, 146, 148, 150, 152, 154, 156, 158, 160, 162, 164, 166, 168, 170, 172, 174, 176, 178, 180, 182, 184, 186, 188, 190, 192, 194, 196, 198, 200, 202, 204, 206, 208, 210, 212, 214, 216, 218, 220, 222, 224, 226, 228, 230, 232, 234, 236, 238, 240, 242, 244, 246, 248, 250, 252, 254, 256, 258, 260, 262, 264, 266, 268, 270, 272, 274, 276, 278, 280, 282, 284, 286, 288, 290, 292, 294, 296, 298, 300, 302, 304, 306, 308, 310, 312, 314, 316, 318, 320, 322, 324, 326, 328, 330, 332, 334, 336, 338, 340, 342, 344, 346, 348, 350, 352, 354, 356, 358, 360, 362, 364, 366, 368, 370, 372, 374, 376, 378, 380, 382, 384, 386, 388, 390, 392, 394, 396, 398, 400, 402, 404, 406, 408, 410, 412, 414, 416, 418, 420, 422, 424, 426, 428, 430, 432, 434, 436, 438, 440, 442, 444, 446, 448, 450, 452, 454, 456, 458, 460, 462, 464, 466, 468, 470, 472, 474, 476, 478, 480, 482, 484, 486, 488, 490, 492, 494, 496, 498, 500, 502, 504, 506, 508, 510, 512, 514, 516, 518, 520, 522, 524, 526, 528, 530, 532, 534, 536, 538, 540, 542, 544, 546, 548, 550, 552, 554, 556, 558, 560, 562, 564, 566, 568, 570, 572, 574, 576, 578, 580, 582, 584, 586, 588, 590, 592, 594, 596, 598, 600, 602, 604, 606, 608, 610, 612, 614, 616, 618, 620, 622, 624, 626, 628, 630, 632, 634, 636, 638, 640, 642, 644, 646, 648, 650, 652, 654, 656, 658, 660, 662, 664, 666, 668, 670, 672, 67